

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday, 28th August 1961.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I. EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT THE DEMISE OF SRI A. VEDARATHNAM PILLAI, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is with regret that I have to report to the House the sad news of the sudden demise of Sri A. Vedarathnam Pillai, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, on the 24th August 1961 at Madras. The late Sri Vedarathnam Pillai took active and prominent part in the struggle for Indian Independence and suffered imprisonment several times. The heroic part played by him in the Salt Satyagraha Movement in 1930 and his participation in the historic march from Tanjore to Vedaranyam in this connection constitute a bright chapter in the history of the Indian struggle for Independence. He served the Indian National Congress devotedly in various capacities for over three decades. He was the founder manager of the Kasturba Gandhi Kanyagurukulam and Thaymanavar Senior Basic School at Vedaranyam. He was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1952 and again from 1957 till his untimely death.

Simple and saintly, the late Sardar Vedarathnam Pillai as he was called had a high sense of duty and it is sadly significant that he died in harness. In his death, Tamilnad has lost a staunch Congressman, a true patriot and a constructive worker.

I request hon. Members to stand in silence for a few minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

Accordingly, the Members stood in silence for a few minutes.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Performance of archanas

* 5 *S.N. Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have agreed to the performance of archanas in Tamil; and

(*b*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The Home Minister told a deputation headed by Kunrakudi Adigalar, who met him, that without any prejudice to the rituals and modes of worship that have been in vogue in the temples, selected

verses from the ' Tirumurai ' may be recited at stated hour in the mornings and evenings as Tirumarai archanai for the benefit of those who desire to participate in it.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I know, Sir, whether any devotee has been prevented so far from reciting the hymns in whichever language he liked?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : In reciting the hymns, the place is the main question. In the sanctum sanctorum only the priest recites. It is not any devotee that recites there. The Archaka does it according to the established practice.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : I am not talking about archana. The Hon. Minister mentioned about Tirumarai. Tirumurai is nothing but a hymn in praise of God. Even today are not people reciting the hymns in all parts of the temples without any let or hindrance?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That is a different thing. Here as a mode of worship, the proposal is that Tirumurai may be recited, selected verses that would suit the occasion, at a particular hour, when those who are interested in it and want to participate in it may be present and participate in it.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the Tirumurai verses there is the expression ' Potri, Potri ' which give fairly the names of Gods in praise of them and they will be as efficacious and useful as names of Gods in any other language?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir, that is exactly the proposal. The selected verses would be recited at the stated hour.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : I would like to know whether the Archana is nothing but a Namavali and, therefore, very often the Namavali cannot be translated into pure Tamil to give the same effect?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I agree with the hon. Member and there is no question of translation according to this principal.

Malaria Surveillance

*a 257 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any Malaria surveillance in the State; and

(*b*) if so, what is its nature?

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a Questions postponed from the list of question for 24th August 1961.